

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

Location: 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305
Telephone: 603-271-2661
Toll Free: 1-800-371-4503
Fax: 603-271-1091

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 13, 2006

(Approved May 4, 2006)

Members Present: Karen Schlitzer, Brad Simpkins, Michael Williams, Carl Roediger, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, Peter Russell, Joseph Butts, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Edward Murdough, Earl Sweeney, John Hoglund, George Sykes.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2006 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. March 2, 2006. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Director Degnan, to approve the Minutes of the March 2, 2006 Commission Meeting with the following correction: Page 9, VI—Old Business, Item 1—Air Bottles, change the second sentence to read: The air bottles are being dragged on a concrete floor, causing the exterior to wear off.” Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Duquette thanked everyone for their understanding as to why he was not present at the last Commission meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chief Prentiss gave her report for Emergency Medical Services.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan gave his report for the Fire Marshal's Office.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins submitted the following report:

- (a) Fires to date: 108
Acres burned to date: 108
Structures damaged: 3 (estimated value of \$156,000)
Largest fire to date: 46 acres on 4/2/2006
- (b) Wildfire activity so far has been quite busy, with a much earlier than normal spring fire season. The combination of mild temperatures and lack of snowfall this past winter created bare ground conditions in some parts of the State as early as February, resulting in very dry surface fuels. We've had several structures threatened in the wildland urban interface.
- (c) The fire towers are up and operating. They have already played a critical role in the early spotting of fires this season, helping to keep acreage burned to a minimum. A significant project being undertaken this spring and early summer is the replacement of the entire cab on Magalloway Tower in Pittsburg. The cab is currently being built and will need to be flown by helicopter to the top of the mountain. The plan for the old tower cab is to have it set on nearby State Park property. Several other tower maintenance projects will hopefully be completed this upcoming season.
- (d) The Visiting Committee that developed the Wildland Firefighter 1 program met the end of March to look back at the first year of the program. Several minor issues were brought up and are being resolved. Three Train-the-Trainers are being conducted across the State. Also, Forests and Lands has purchased additional equipment for use by the Fire Academy to enhance the practical portion of the training, including new-style practice shelters, drip torches, and fuses.
- (e) The hiring process to fill the two vacant forest ranger positions is underway. Of the original 72 applicants, we are now down to 15. Oral boards will be conducted in early May.
- (f) Since one of the ranger positions is entirely new, it required redistricting the State. A new map was drawn. It is our hope that the transition to new districts will be as seamless as possible with little effect on the services provided to our cooperators.

- (g) The Governor has signed a Proclamation declaring April 16-22 as Forest Fire Awareness Week in the State of New Hampshire. During this week we will be running a wildland fire prevention commercial on WMUR Channel 9.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

(a) **Driver/Operator:**

- (1) Pumps:
Class scheduled in Franklin in March and April.
- (2) Aerial Apparatus:
The Visiting Committee has met recently and is looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program that will then be updated.
- (3) All Vehicle:
We are currently looking for places to hold the practical portion, as this is becoming difficult to offer because of the lack of space to hold the driver practical.

(b) **Hazardous Materials:**

- (1) Operations:
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
- (2) Technician:
Class scheduled in Gorham is completed.
- (3) Decontamination:
The Decontamination program is being reviewed at this time and we are looking at the Vermont program. This will be presented possibly in April.

(c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**

Spring part 139 eight-hour programs are ready to begin.

(d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**

- (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
Inspector I classes scheduled for NHFA weekends in February, and in Newington for March have been completed. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations.
- (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator: Visiting Committee is very close in finishing their curriculum and are estimating May to come before the Commission's curriculum committee.
- (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

(e) **Rescue Series:**

(1) Structural Collapse:

No pilots scheduled as yet. It was learned that Rope, Trench, Confined Space, and Vehicle/Machinery Extrication are necessary to have before Structural Collapse can be offered according to the standard.

(2) Confined Space:

A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time. A confined space class will be scheduled for Nashua this winter/spring.

(3) Technical Rope Rescue:

Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending Visiting Committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.

Still working on getting the CMC TtT.

(4) Trench Rescue

The Visiting Committee will begin Trench Rescue programs to meet the standard and meet with the Commission curriculum committee in May.

(5) Water Rescue/Ice

Four instructors attended a three-day TtT on February 17-19; they are to present the program for review.

(f) **NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:**

(g) **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:**

A spring class is scheduled here in March and April, going on now.

(h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**

An Instructor III class has just come to completion at the Elliot Hospital and will begin another one here shortly.

(i) **NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:**

Doing well at this point..

(j) **C2F2**

An April class is scheduled as well as for Recruit School in June.

(k) **ICS/NIMS**

Starting to regionalize these programs for more effective and economical delivery.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #100. The Director's Report #100 for April 13, 2006 was as follows:

Well like winter, snow is here, now gone...over and over again, we now have nice weather, then cold, then warm...hopefully it will level out! Anyway welcome to Spring; things are really picking up at the Academy and in the field!

1) CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE (CSFI)

The annual CFSI dinner was held last Thursday (April 6) at the Washington Hilton. The NH delegation had the opportunity to meet with Senators Gregg and Sununu and Congressmen Bass and Bradley...the first time we actually met with all four. There were eight Fire Chiefs (Klauber, Carrier, LeClaire, Plummer, Allen, Bradley, Krause, and Thibeault), the Fire Marshal and I in attendance. The Fire Act Grant and SAFER grants were the highest priority, as well as endorsing David Paulison's nomination for FEMA Director. Dave is former Metro-Dade Florida Fire Chief and Past President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

2) NEW DIRECTOR AT MA FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

Laurent (Larry) McDonald, Retired Military Fire Officer and Dudley, MA Fire Chief has taken on the role of MA State Fire Training Director, a position vacant for a couple years. CT Director Adam Piskura and I met with Larry recently...it seems Larry will do a great job for Massachusetts.

The long time Maine Training Director, Steve Willis, has been re-assigned in the Southern Maine College System. Interim Director Dave Niklaus has been promoted to that position until filled full time...it will be nice when all six New England States are covered.

3) FIRE STATION ADDITION

We are well under way with the addition for the fire station. It will appear as an additional bay; however, it will mainly be training equipment storage, similar to a tool crib in an industrial setting.

Director Mason reported that Chief Phillips and Captain Deane are going to Massachusetts to review their tool crib on Monday, April 17.

4) PROGRAMS

We presently have a Fire Officer Certification program that graduates tomorrow night (April 14). The second week of Recruit School and the first week of C2F2 are at the Academy...as you can tell, especially with the ongoing construction, logistics are a nightmare!

5) TRADE REGION I

Training Resource And Data Exchange (TRADE), a program of the National Fire Academy, will be having its New England Region meeting May 4 and 5 at the Radisson in Manchester. Chiefs Rosolen and Phillips will be attending with me, since this meeting is not out of state.

6) NEW CFOD IN NH

Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief in Amherst, Steven Bair (also a staff instructor), is the newest Chief Fire Officer Designee in New Hampshire. Congratulations, Steve!

7) JUNE MEETING & ACADEMY AWARDS

Just a reminder that we will have an altered agenda on June 1 as we will be hosting the NH House of Representative's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee for their annual public input session. The meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. followed by dinner with the legislators and a 7:00 p.m. Hearing.

It is not too early to think about and nominate candidates for this year's Academy Award and Fire Service Award of Excellence. The date will be Thursday, November 2, 2006 and will have a similar schedule as June.

Other issues discussed:

8. FIREFIGHTERS' MEMORIAL

The site work for the Firefighters' Memorial has been started next to the fire station. A call to Brotherhood is scheduled for August, with a dedication on September 10. It will have an eternal flame.

9. EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER

The newest Executive Fire Officer from the National Fire Academy, with a perfect score on one of his papers, is Chief Rosolen.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Hiring Transfer Rule.

Director Mason discussed the hiring transfer rule 703.01 under Administrative Rule. He stated this was in regards to a certain individual working temporary full time mentioned in March 2, 2006 minutes.

Director Mason indicated the person in question is classified in our rules as a full time employee. He is hired on a department full time temporary due to making over \$20,000. There was a discussion between Commissioner Roediger, Commissioner Burbank, and Commissioner Russell. Commissioner Roediger and Commissioner Butts discussed the intent of Administrative Rule 101.17.

Commissioner Schlitzer stated she would look into this.

Item 2. Lapse in Transfer Time.

Director Mason stated the Division has had three cases so far in regards to the lapse of service between the resignation date on one department and the hiring date of a second department. The question is does the Commission have a magic number they want the Division to use. Does the Commission want the Division to use common sense? Director Mason also asked what time frame is it acceptable to transfer if a person has old career level and not C2F2.

Commissioner Schlitzer asked is the life of certification dependent on your job. Director Mason stated no, but certifications change. Commissioner Schlitzer indicated it doesn't make sense if it's tied to employment.

Bureau Chief Rosolen gave examples of this. If a firefighter terminates employment effective a certain date and is employed with another department seven days later, is this still a transfer or new employment? What if it were thirty days, not seven?

Commissioner Williams asked what the time limits were at the New Hampshire Retirement System. Director Mason indicated we do not interpret the retirement rules.

Chair Duquette indicated as a point of order, go back to the organizations you represent and get the feel of what they request.

Item 3. I-93 Project. Commissioner Murdough was not present to give a report.

Item 4. Firefighters' Memorial Brick. Commissioner Carrier reported that, if the Commission members buy three bricks, we have room for every Commission members' names. The cost would be \$18.75 per person. If each Commission member donates \$20.00, we will donate the extra money to the Memorial fund. Chair Duquette requested that everyone who is interested give their money to Commissioner Carrier by the end of the May 4 meeting at the latest.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. EMT Continuing Education Training Programs.

Commissioner Sykes had wanted this item on the agenda, and he was not present, the item was postponed until the May 4 Commission meeting.

Item 2. Public Hearing on May 4—Waiver Administrative Rules.

Chair Duquette stated that there will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 4, 2006 on our Administrative Rules, PART Fire 704 WAIVERS. A copy of what the Commission members voted on at their December 1, 2005 meeting is in the Commission members' packets. By Administrative Rules, we must hold a Public Hearing on the changes.

Item 3. Time Extension Request—Concord Fire Department.

Director Mason reported that Concord Fire Department is requesting a six-month extension for Firefighter Lengille to complete his C2F2. He was hired in September 2005. Rehabilitation is on-going.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butts, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to allow a one-year extension to September 2007 for C2F2 for Firefighter Lengille of the Concord Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. 100 Meetings. Director Mason noted that 100 meetings have gone by since he was appointed Director. He said he appreciates the opportunity to serve as your Director.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Roediger, to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 04/13/06
2. Minutes of Meeting – 02/02/06 – Approved 03/02/06
3. Curriculum Status Report 04/13/06
4. Minutes of Meeting – 03/02/06 – Not Approved
5. Director's Report #100—April 13, 2006
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/05 to 04/13/06
7. NH Forest Protection Bureau Committee Report 04/13/06
8. Memo to Commissioner Flynn Regarding FIRE 704 dated 03/27/06